

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

TWO NEW MURINE RODENTS FROM BALTISTAN.

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Among the mammals which Dr. W. L. Abbott recently collected in Baltistan and presented to the United States National Museum are representatives of a vole and a rat belonging to undescribed forms.

***Alticola glacialis* sp. nov.**

Type.—Adult female (skin and skull) No. 176,071 U. S. National Museum. Collected at Chogo Lungma Glacier (altitude 11,000 feet), Baltistan, August 23, 1912. Original No. 7841.

Diagnosis.—Like *Alticola montosus** of central Kashmir, but tail not so long (usually 34 to 44 instead of 45 to 55) and color noticeably less brown.

Color.—Upperparts a moderately light gray with a faint brownish suffusion along back. The individual hairs are slate-color through the greater part of their length, then dull ivory-yellow (3 mm.), the tips black. Underparts between pallid-mouse-gray and white, the contrast with color of sides noticeable, but line of demarcation not sharply defined. Feet grayish white. Tail grayish white below, the upper surface brownish at tip, the dark area sometimes extending to base, but rarely as well defined as in average specimens of *A. montosus*.

Skull and teeth.—The skull and teeth resemble those of *Alticola montosus*.

Measurements.—Type: head and body, 116; tail, 40; hind foot (dry), 20 (18.6); condylobasal length of skull, 27.0 (26.8); † zygomatic breadth, 14.8 (15.0); interorbital constriction, 4.0 (4.0); occipital breadth, 12.8 (12.8); occipital depth, 7.0 (7.0); nasal, 8.0 (7.8); diastema, 8.0 (8.0); mandible, 17.2 (16.8); maxillary toothrow (alveoli), 6.6 (6.4); mandibular toothrow (alveoli), 6.4 (6.2).

* 1894. *Arvicola montosa* True, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 17, p. 11, May 8, 1894. (Central Kashmir, altitude 11,000 feet.)

1905. *Microtus imitator* Bonhote, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 8, vol. 15, p. 197, February, 1905. (Tullian, Kashmir, altitude 11,000 feet.)

† Cranial measurements in parentheses are those of an adult female *Alticola montosus* from Min Nai, Kashmir (No. 173,701).

Specimens examined.—Forty-six, from the following localities in Baltistan: Basha Valley (12,000 feet), 11; Chogo Lungma Glacier (11,000 feet), 23; Tormik Valley (12,000 feet), 12.

Remarks.—As compared with *Alticola montosus*, represented by a series of 144 skins collected by Dr. Abbott in central and southern Kashmir, the Baltistan *Alticola* is readily distinguishable by its shorter tail and lighter color. In *A. montosus* the general appearance is that of an ordinary brownish vole, while in *A. glacialis* it begins to approach that of the characteristic members of the genus. The color is practically identical with that of *A. worthingtoni* of the Tian Shan Mountains, except that the tail is never entirely white.

***Epimys rattus shigarus* subsp. nov.**

Type.—Adult male (skin and skull) No. 176,132 U. S. National Museum. Collected in the Shigar Valley (altitude 9,000 feet), Baltistan, October 4, 1912. Original No. 8010.

Diagnosis.—Like the member of the *Epimys rattus* group common in central Kashmir and currently regarded as identical with Hodgson's *Mus nitidus*, but color of upperparts paler and more grayish, and dark dorsal area of tail conspicuously sprinkled with white hairs.

Color.—Upperparts buffy gray, rather noticeably "lined" by the longer blackish hairs, the general effect more pallid than in *Epimys rattus nitidus* from Kashmir or *E. rattus alexandrinus* from Italy (which are essentially alike in color except that the tail is bicolor in *nitidus*, unicolor in *alexandrinus*); sides slightly paler than back. The elements of the color are: (a) neutral-gray underfur, (b) ivory-yellow tips to the shorter hairs, (c) blackish longer hairs, (d) whitish hair-like bristles, dark at tip. On flanks the yellowish element is less pallid, approaching more nearly to cream-buff or chamois. Underparts and dorsum of manus and pes ivory-yellow, the line of demarcation along sides of body not very well defined. Tail sparsely haired so that the scales are plainly visible everywhere except at tip, all the hairs white except on dorsal surface, where enough black hairs are intermingled to produce a rather noticeable dark area.

Skull and teeth.—The skull and teeth resemble those of *Epimys rattus nitidus* from Kashmir. As compared with that of Italian *E. rattus alexandrinus* the rostrum is more developed and the auditory bullae are less globularly inflated.

Measurements.—Type: head and body, 198; tail, 211; hind foot, 37 (35); condylobasal length of skull (teeth moderately worn), 42.6; zygomatic breadth, 22.0; interorbital constriction, 6.2; breadth of braincase, 16.4; depth of braincase, 11.2; nasal, 17.2; diastema, 12.2; mandible, 26.0; maxillary toothrow (alveoli), 7.0; mandibular toothrow (alveoli), 6.8.

Specimens examined.—Seven, all from the type locality.

Remarks.—This rat presents an example of the tendency shown by several Baltistan mammals, such as *Apodemus wardi* and *Alticola glacialis*, to be paler in color than their representatives from central and southern Kashmir.